Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1737

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

AMCONSUL LUANDA

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION NATO

DIA WASHDC

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

AMCONSUL OPORTO

AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA

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EO 11652: N/A TAGS: MILI, PO

SUBJECT: AFM ESTABLISHES INTERNAL INFORMATION TEAMS

1. ARMED FORCES MOVEMENT BULLETIN OF FEB 11 NOTES FAVORABLY THE CREATION WITHIN ARMY UNITS OF POLITICAL GROUPS WHOSE TASK IT IS TO ELEVATE LEVEL OF POLITICAL AND CULTURAL AWARENESS. THESE GROUPS ARE TO BE ELECTED WITHIN EACH UNIT BY ALL ENLISTED MEN, SERGEANTS, AND OFFICERS, AND SEEK TO ACQUAINT THE MEN OF UNIT WITH "HUMAN, ECONOMIC, AND POLITICAL REALITIES OF COUNTRY." SUCH CONTACTS, BULLETIN GOES ON TO SAY, WILL GIVE MEN A SENSE OF SOCIAL CONSCIENCE AND HELP STRENGTHEN THEIR BONDS WITH THE PEOPLE.

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2. BULLETIN LIKENS THIS NEW EFFORT TO PREVIOUS WORK BY

MILITARY UNITS AMONG THE PEOPLE OF COUNTRYSIDE, NOTING NOW THAT EXTERNAL CULTURAL "DYNAMIZATION" CAMPAIGN UNDERWAY, AFM WILL ENLARGE ITS TASKS BY TURNING INWARD TO ARMED FORCES THEMSELVES.

- 3. SO FAR AS WE ARE AWARE THESE INTERNAL UNIT BRIGADES, CALLED INTERNAL INFORMATION AND PUBLIC RELATIONS TEAMS (IIPRT), HAVE BEEN ESTABLISHED ONLY IN ARMY. AN ARMY DIRECTIVE STATES THAT IIPRTS WILL BE ELECTED, WILL CONSIST OF FROM 6 TO 12 MEN, WILL SERVE FOR FROM 3 TO 6 MONTHS, AND WILL PERFORM REGULAR DUTIES IN ADDITION TO DYNAMIZATION WORK. CIVILIANS WORKING IN THE UNIT MAY SERVE WITH TEAMS.
- 4. SPECIFIC FUNCTIONS OF IIPRTS ARE: TO IMPROVE INTERNAL MORALE; BRING ABOUT BETTER AWARENESS OF AFM PROGRAM; SEEK SOLUTIONS FOR INTERNAL PROBLEMS WITHIN UNIT AND LOOK AFTER GENERAL WELL-BEING BY PROMOTING CULTURAL EVENTS, SPORTS MEETS AND AMUSEMENTS, ETC. ANOTHER PURPOSE OF TEAMS IS TO COME UP WITH APPROPRIATE FORMS OF HELPING LOCAL POPULACE WITH PROBLEMS.
- 5. IIPRTS ARE TO MEET AT LEAST ONCE A WEEK WITH THEIR UNIT COMMANDER TO DISCUSS PROBLEMS AND PROGRESS. TEAMS MUST BE NON-PARTISAN POLITICALLY.
- 6. COMMENT: THIS NEW INITIATIVE IS PROBABLY BRAIN CHILD OF PROGRAM COORDINATING COMMITTEE OF ARMED FORCES MOVEMENT. IT IS TOO EARLY TO ASSESS WHETHER IIPRTS WILL BE POLITICALLY NEUTRAL OR SUPPORT ONLY LEFTWING PARTIES. MUCH WILL DEPEND ON PERSONALITY AND IDEOLOGICAL INCLINATIONS OF UNIT COMMANDER. AT THIS POINT, IT WOULD BE PREMATURE TO ATTACH PROFOUND SIGNIFICANCE TO FORMATION OF THESE TEAMS. CARLUCCI

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